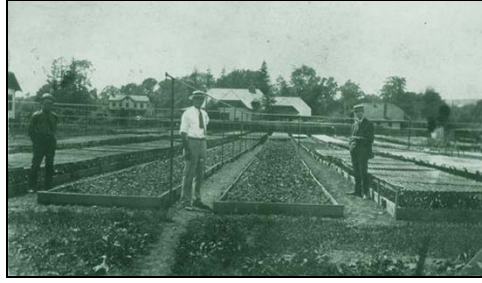


# PRINCETON NURSERIES KINGSTON SITE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT



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### CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION, WORK SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

Figure I.1. This contemporary aerial shows the boundaries of the former Princeton Nurseries landscape at Kingston, NJ. The areas outlined in red depict the full extents of the former nursery lands, both owned and leased from others. The area outlined in orange is the Mapleton Preserve. Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the Kingston Site was established, the formerly agricultural setting has been considerably altered with residential, commercial, and institutional development. The area set aside as Mapleton Preserve is a small portion of the expansive nursery landscape. Courtesy Google Maps, annotated by Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Google-outline-Mapleton-2010.jpg)

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Figure III.2. This 2002 aerial shows a portion of the former Kingston Site. The operation core is visible at the upper left-hand corner. During the most recent period, many greenhouses and poly houses south of the propagation house have been removed from the landscape. Courtesy New Jersey Geography Network. (R-PRN-NJGIN-G10B7-2002Aerial.jpg)

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Figure III.25. A change in vegetative cover to a wetland species through the center of the former wholesale distribution yard indicates a change in natural hydrology. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0080.JPG)

Figure III.26. A woodland that existed throughout the Princeton Nurseries history remains at the eastern edge of Mapleton Preserve. Although no formal trails provide access through the wooded area, it does create a scenic character that differs from the broader landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0128.JPG)

Figure III.27. This section of drive is located at the southeast edge of Mapleton Preserve. Overall the drive is surfaced in gravel while this southern portion is a mix of gravel and compacted dirt with a central turf panel. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0131.jpg)

Figure III.28. This view looks west from the eastern gravel drive. Here it intersects with another gravel drive that extends from the entry landscape out toward the core. Princeton Sentry ginkgo line the drive to the south (left). Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PRN-RvZ-07013 D9-001.JPG)

Figure III.29. a portion of railroad tracks remain in this asphalt patch at the west edge of the former wholesale nursery yard. This provides a strong interpretive feature to understand the historic transportation corridor. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0074.JPG)

Figure III.30. This image looks west along a turf drive that extends through a former production field. The turf here is taller and more overgrown than on other drives that appear to have been mown more recently. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0133.JPG)

Figure III.31. An unnamed secondary brook runs alongside Railroad Avenue, visible in the right-hand foreground. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0069.JPG)

Figure III.32. Prolific vegetation surrounds the widened portion of the north-south brook. This portion of the brook is located at the east edge of the former distribution yard and likely contributes to the wetter ground conditions. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0085.JPG)

Figure III.33. Extant features from the former irrigation system can be found throughout the landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0096.JPG)

Figure III.34. A manmade pond is located in the Flemer Arboretum. Dense vegetation, including several young pin oak, surrounds the water feature. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0023.JPG)

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Figure III.35. The former Princeton Nurseries office building and blacksmith shop provide facilities for the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park today. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (6).jpg)

Figures III.36. This view depicts the current condition of the packing shed. It has deteriorated over time and volunteer vegetation grows along the foundation. A chain link fence has been erected to restrict public access to this building as well as the tree storage building and propagation house. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (10)-adj.jpg)

Figure III.37. This view, taken from inside the chain link enclosure, illustrates the disrepair that has occurred at the propagation house and extant greenhouses. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (32).jpg)

Figure III.38. A number of former worker residences remain in place but vacant on Greenwood Avenue. This residence reflects the yellow and white color scheme implemented by William Flemer Jr. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (60).jpg)

Figures III.39. A wooden post that once held three horizontal rails remains standing at the west edge of the Flemer Arboretum. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0009.JPG)

Figure III.40. At the southern edge of the Flemer Arboretum, a portion of the wooden post and rail fence remains in the landscape. Prolific vegetation impacts the historic resource. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0014.JPG)

Figure III.41. Additional post and rail fencing remains as a barrier between Railroad Avenue and the stone culvert. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0093.JPG)

Figure III.42. Two signs mark the entry drive. The brown sign notes this as the site of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park headquarters and the white sign notes this is the entry into Mapleton Preserve. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0073.JPG)

Figure III.43. A rusty rock picker remains in the landscape today. It is an intriguing folly in the landscape. The spread of vegetation nearly completely obscures it once the plants produce leaves. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0054.JPG)

## CHAPTER IV: LANDSCAPE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

Figure IV.1. This 1978 view across cultivated ground shows staked plantings marking in a linear pattern through the landscape during the period of significance. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0094-Sept1978.jpg)

Figure IV.2. A linear row of juvenile trees lines an interior nursery road in this 1978 photograph. Because the Kingston Site was a productive nursery, plantings were not permitted to reach full height before transplanting. Instead, trees and shrubs were removed while they were still in juvenile

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state of growth. As a result, the agricultural landscape remained open and sunny, without a dense, mature tree canopy. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0098-Sept1978.jpg)

Figure IV.3. Rectilinear nursery blocks and linear circulation routes are evident in this 1978 photograph, where seedbeds and tree production areas flank an interior nursery drive. The overall character of the landscape is open and sunny, with defined views along linear landscape elements such as roads, planted rows, and blocks. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0104-Sept1978.jpg)

Figure IV.4. Linear rows of Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) traverse the Kingston Site landscape in this 1978 view. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0136-Sept1978.jpg)

Figure IV.5. Today, traces of former nursery drives are visible as turf paths between blocks of vegetation. These remnant circulation features continue to contribute to the spatial organization of the site. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0115.jpg)

Figure IV.6. This interior nursery drive, shown looking north to the entry landscape, is bordered by a remnant row of arborvitae that displays significant deer browse in 2011. This linear feature shapes spatial and linear relationships, and contributes to the character of the landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN 2011-07-20 036.jpg)

Figure IV.7. Allées of shade trees line this public road at the edge of the Kingston Site in this 1978 image. Tree allées are still present in the 2011 landscape, shaping spatial organization and directing views. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0090-Sept1978.jpg)

Figure IV.8. Extant tree plantings that remain at the Kingston Site from the historic period include a row of Princeton Sentry ginkgo along the south side of a former nursery drive at the edge of the former greenhouse area, as seen in this view south. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN 2011-07-20 011.jpg)

## CHAPTER V: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION TREATMENT

Figure V.1 This 2011 image depicts a group of contributing drive, trees and fields of the Kingston Site landscape to be preserved. A columnar Norway maple tree marks the west entry to the nursery production fields, positioned to the left in this view east. A row of Princeton Sentry ginkgo trees line the north field drive, with open fields to the right. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN 2011-07-20 001.jpg)

Figure V.2. Princeton Sentry ginkgo trees line the edge of a nursery road at the edge of a row of production shade houses in this 1978 view east, a parallel view to Figure V.1. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0080-Sept1978.jpg)

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Figure V.3 In this 1978 photograph, Princeton Nurseries employees are at work digging and balling young hemlock trees to remove from the rows, allowing the adjacent trees to grow larger. The image illustrates the open, sunny quality of the Kingston Site, composed of young plant materials for sale. The commercial cycle of small plant cultivation, field planting, harvesting, growing on and removal for sale retains relatively small plants in a relatively open landscape, to preclude a shady, dense canopy. The return of agriculture such as Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), community gardens, or lease to a local farmer would return the historical agricultural use to this landscape. Courtesy of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University. (R-PRN-NCSU-Raulston-049-0130-Sept1978.jpg)